



NATIONAL MOTORISTS ASSOCIATION

Empowering Drivers Since 1982

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I have two points, one positive and one negative.

The changes in the Subs for speed limits on our freeways and rural trunk lines are reasonable.

But removing the minimum percentile speed for legal limits posted by local authorities will mean cities like Grand Rapids will continue to post completely unrealistic limits that define most safe drivers as violators.

In seven Grand Rapids speed studies, only 38 of the 1,193 free flowing vehicles or 3% of the total were in compliance, with 97% of the vehicles at speeds above the unrealistically low posted limits.

I believe that unrealistically low limits like those which define the overwhelming majority of safe drivers as violators bear no relationship whatsoever to responsible traffic safety engineering. I believe these irresponsible practices will continue until the legislature requires realistic posted speed limits by law.

Thank you and I would welcome any questions.

Respectfully,

James C. Walker for the National Motorists Association

Seven Grand Rapids Speed Studies of Free Flowing Traffic Under Good Conditions

1/29/16

Seward Ave. near 11th, posted limit of 25 mph

85th percentile speed = 38 mph

75th percentile speed = 37 mph

50th percentile speed = 34 mph

Only 4 of 135 vehicles at 25 mph or below, 3% in compliance

132 vehicles or 97% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit

1/29/16

Michigan St. near Houseman, posted limit of 25 mph

85th percentile speed = 37 mph

75th percentile speed = 35 mph

50th percentile speed = 33 mph

Only 2 of 175 vehicles at 25 mph or below, 1% in compliance

173 vehicles or 99% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit

10/22/15

Lake Michigan Drive near Oswego, M-45, posted limit of 35 mph

85th percentile speed = 49 mph

75th percentile speed = 48 mph

50th percentile speed = 44 mph

Only 10 of 222 vehicles at 35 mph or below, 5% in compliance

212 vehicles or 95% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit

10/22/15

Market Ave. at Wealthy, posted limit of 25 mph

85th percentile speed = 38 mph

75th percentile speed = 37 mph

50th percentile speed = 33 mph

Only 4 of 128 vehicles at 25 mph or below, 3% in compliance

124 vehicles or 97% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit

10/6/15

Kalamazoo Ave. near Blossom, posted limit of 35 mph

85th percentile speed = 46 mph

75th percentile speed = 44 mph

50th percentile speed = 42 mph

Only 15 of 301 vehicles at 35 mph or below, 5% in compliance

286 vehicles or 95% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit

9/30/15

Turner Ave. near Edwin, posted limit of 30 mph

85th percentile speed = 44 mph

75th percentile speed = 42 mph

50th percentile speed = 39 mph

Only 3 of 105 vehicles at 30 mph or below, 3% compliance

102 vehicles or 97% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit

5/2/14

Burton St. near Osceola, posted limit of 30 mph

85th percentile speed = 44 mph

75th percentile speed = 42 mph

50th percentile speed = 39 mph

Zero vehicles at 30 mph or below, 0% in compliance

127 vehicles or 100% defined as violators by the unrealistically low speed limit